

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



The Blessing of Abraham: A Divine Promise Unfolding

Hello friends,

Thank you for following me into this season with the Litany of Humility – given a few spiritual experiences last weekend (and running generally right now), I see the Lord working in a peculiar way right now – I don't know the exact plot points He's drawing out, but I know He's telling a story. Humility is a powerful virtue and a root of all other virtues. It is the counter to first the devil's and then Adam and Eve's sin, pride (turning away from God and turning in on themselves, with sprinklings of anger and envy and shame mixed in). Very importantly, following Philippians 2: 6-11, humility is the hallmark of the Incarnation – of God becoming one of us, suffering, dying, and rising from the dead. I think that's a good angle from which to approach this – humility is not a matter of shame for personal failure, since in that way Jesus had nothing to be ashamed of. To borrow again from C.S. Lewis, humility is "not thinking less of oneself but thinking of oneself less." Another descriptor I like to employ is that humility is coming to know myself in the same way God knows me – that can entail a lot of purification in my self-knowledge.

(continued on page 2)

March 1, 2026
2nd Sunday of Lent

*Readings are in the hymnal,
#1019*

Eucharist

Saturdays - 6:30 PM

Sundays - 10:30 AM

Wednesday - 5:15 PM

Fridays - 8:00 AM

Livestreaming Mass

www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley

Diocese of La Crosse

Televised Mass on

Channel 19, Sunday, 9:30 AM

Pastoral Visits:

Please contact the parish office if you or a loved one is in need of a pastoral visit.

Let us know if you would like to be remembered in our parish's public prayers.

Baptism

Call the parish office for information and scheduling.

Confession

Sat. 5:45 PM, Sun. 9:45 AM,
Wed. 5:45 PM during Adoration

Rosary:

The Holy Rosary is prayed 30 minutes before all Masses

Eucharistic Adoration

1st Friday each month after Mass
Benediction at 10 AM;
Every Tuesday 4:30 PM in CV
Every Wednesday 5:45 PM

Giving:

On-line -

<https://diolc.org/annunciation-of-the-blessed-virgin-mary-parish-viroqua>

Parish Offices

OPEN: MTWF- 8 AM-4 PM

Parish Website www.stmaryviroqua.org; Parish Fax (608) 299-3721

Father Joseph M. Richards, Pastor, (608) 606-9787; Deacon Tony Shay; Diana Hernandez-Torres, Sacristan

Pat Obernberger, Coordinator of Ongoing Formation, stmaryformation@mwt.net; (608) 637-7711

Beth Laurdan, Music Director, stmaryparish@mwt.net; (608) 637-7711; Tom Leis, Librarian, saintmaryparishlibrary@gmail.com

Fran Campbell, Secretary/Bookkeeper, stmaryparish@mwt.net, (608) 637-7711; Parish Kitchen (608) 637-7878

400 Congress Avenue, Viroqua, WI 54665

March 1, 2026

(continued from page 1) Anyhow, I'd like to share the elements of this prayer with you here for your own continued work – I'll keep giving you the prompts, but here it all is in writing. To "O Jesus, meek and humble of heart," the response is "hear me." The response "Deliver me O Jesus" answers the following lines: "From the desire of being esteemed...from the desire of being loved...from the desire of being extolled (that is, glorified)...from the desire of being honored...from the desire of being praised...from the desire of being preferred to others...from the desire of being consulted...from the desire of being approved...from the fear of being humiliated...from the fear of being despised...from the fear of suffering rebukes...from the fear of being calumniated (that is, defamed/spoken about falsely), from the fear of being forgotten, from the fear of being ridiculed...from the fear of being wronged...from the fear of being suspected." The response "Jesus grant me the grace to desire it" answers the following lines: "That others may be loved more than I...that others may be esteemed more than I...that in the opinion of the world others may increase and I may decrease...that others may be chosen and I set aside...that others may be praised and I go unnoticed...that others may be preferred to me in everything...that others may become holier than I, provided that I may become as holy as I should."

Again, this whole prayer and process is about freedom – chipping away at those places where I have grown accustomed to earning love, grappling for position, preempting criticism with perfectionism. It's all about letting go of my controlling these places and letting myself simply receive and (just as importantly) give. Freedom, wholeheartedness, holiness, humility, these are all interrelated in the one Good Lord's good grace.

God bless you all,

Fr. Joe

The PCCW and Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish
are both offering a \$500 scholarship to two graduating seniors of our parish. Scholarship applications can be picked up in the gathering space or downloaded from the parish website, www.stmaryparish.org . Scholarship applications are due in the parish office by **Wednesday, April 15.**

LIBRARY CORNER *Mary's Way of the Cross* by Richard Furey

Mary's Way of the Cross is a booklet, not a book. I found a copy in the back of a neighboring church on Ash Wednesday. As I took a closer look at the booklet I realized it was written from the perspective of an **observer** on that first Good Friday. It is interesting to hear the story of the Stations of the Cross through the "voice" of Mary as she watched the passion of her son unfold. It is a unique perspective for any of us, but likely especially the moms among us. A secondary observation that I made is that the blackline illustrations can also serve as a coloring book! I went directly to Walmart and purchased a set of colored pencils and gave the booklet and pencils to Cindy as an Ash Wednesday gift. I think this would be a great Holy Week reflection/activity for anyone, but especially for moms. I have ordered a few copies for anyone to take (and color.) I will also include the website where you can order more copies for \$1.95. *(continued on page 4)*

twentythirdpublications.com

March 1, 2026

FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Feb. 16-22, 2026

Offertory: \$2875.61

CCHD: \$50.00

Total: \$2,925.61

Works of Charity: \$1,153.75

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

January E-gifts: \$2,701.29

THANK YOU!

2025-2026

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$36,920.00

Received to date: \$32,928.87

Donors: 69

Ministry Schedule

Sat., Mar. 7, 6:30 PM

Julie Moore Eucharistic Minister

Will Fisher Altar Server

NOT FILLED Altar Server

Sheryl Robinson Lector

Sun., Mar. 8, 10:30 AM

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Amelia Kimmet Altar Server

Jacob Kimmet Altar Server

Megan Prorok Lector

If not able to serve as scheduled, please request a sub through MSP. Thank you!

8 March 2026

Daylight Savings Time

Now Enrolling at Sacred Heart School -

Discover the difference at Sacred Heart School, where faith and learning grow together. We proudly serve students in **Pre-K through 8th grade** in a Christ-centered environment rooted in Charity, Truth, and Excellence. At Sacred Heart, we believe in skills over standards, helping students build confidence, character, and a strong foundation for life. Schedule a tour or call 608-654-7733 to learn more today!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 28 February, 6:30 PM +Reinie Leis

(Angie Leis)

Sunday, 1 March, 10:30 AM +Janet (Harter) Lucey

(Dan & Renae Harter)

Wednesday, 4 March, 5:15 PM +Jesse Moore

(Parker & Julie Moore)

Friday, 6 March, 8:00 AM +Ralph JaDouL

(Joan Elsing)

Saturday, 7 March, 6:30 PM +Renee Timmerman

(Timmerman Family)

Sunday, 8 March, 10:30 AM Family of Bill Chart

(Darlene Chart)

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, 1 March, 9:00-10:15 AM Confirmation Class in confirmation basement classroom & Marian Hall

Sunday, 1 March, 9:00-10:15 AM Decision Point in parish library

Sunday, 1 March, 9:30 AM Choir rehearsal

Sunday, 1 March, 11:45 AM-1:00 PM "Fratelli Tutti" discussion in confirmation basement classroom

Sunday, 1 March, 11:45 AM-12:45 PM First Communion Class in basement classroom

Sunday, 1 March, 12:00-1:00 PM Family of Faith overview in Marian Hall

Monday, 2 March, 6:00 AM Women of the parish gather to pray the Rosary for the needs and intentions of the Annunciation and St. Mary's Parishes

Wednesday, 4 March, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall

Wednesday, 4 March, 6:30 PM Pastoral Council Meeting in the sitting room

Thursday, 5 March, 6:30-8:00 PM "Fratelli Tutti" discussion in confirmation basement classroom

Friday, 6 March, Registration Deadline for Camp Gray Middle School Retreat March 13-15, 2026

Friday, 6 March, First Friday Adoration following Mass

Friday, 6 March, 5:15 PM Stations of the Cross

Friday, 6 March, 6:00-6:45 PM Soup Supper & Reflection on the Stations of the Cross in Marian Hall

Sunday, 8 March, 9:00-10:15 AM Encounter Class meeting in the pie room

Sunday, 8 March, 9:00-10:15 AM Decision Point in confirmation basement classroom

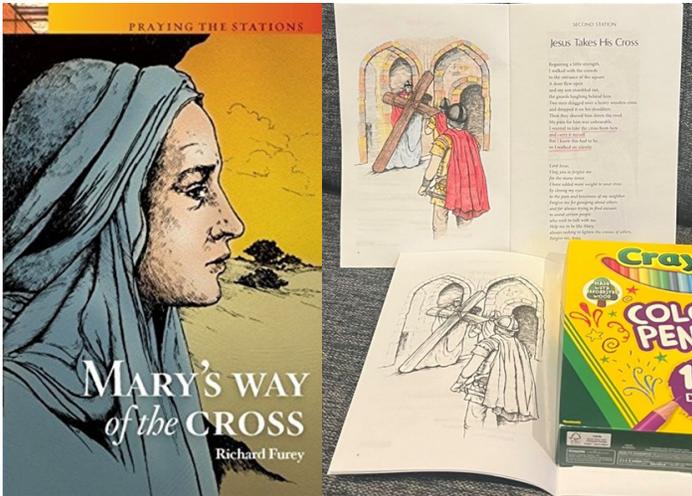
Sunday, 8 March, 5:30 PM Choir rehearsal

Sunday, 8 March, 11:45 AM-12:45 PM First Communion Class in basement classroom

Sunday, 8 March, 11:45 AM-1:00 PM "Fratelli Tutti" discussion in confirmation basement classroom

The contemplative reading group is postponing discussion of *Honey and Salt: Selected Writings of Bernard of Clairvaux* from **February 22, to April 19, from 12:00-1:30 PM**, as this currently overlaps with the Lenten discussion of "Fratelli Tutti." More time to read the book and join us!

LIBRARY CORNER *continued from page 2*



Tom Leis,
Parish Librarian
saintmaryparishlibrary@gmail.com



**R&J's
HONEY
FARM**

52676 Haugen Ln.
Westby, WI 54667
608-634-4059 (home)
608-606-0832 (cell)
rhoneyfarm@hotmail.com

Pastoral Council Members

Kris Brueggen
Phyllis Krause
David Hall

Cathy Poshepny
Jenny Leum
Dcn. Tony Shay

Dennis Vinger

Our Pastoral Council is here to serve. They help us discern the needs of our community and the call of the Spirit in our time. If you wish to speak with a Council member about your concerns., please contact the parish office - 608-637-7711 or stmaryparish@mwt.net.

Please join us for **Grief Share**, where you can find comfort, strength, and hope! If there is someone you know who may benefit from Grief Share, please invite him or her to attend. All are welcome!

When: Tuesdays 5:00 - 7:00 pm

March 10th through June 2nd, 2026

Where: Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
400 Congress Ave.
Viroqua, WI 54665

Facilitators: Janet Olmstead, AAGC Certified Grief Counselor (608) 790-4543
Deacon Anthony Shay, Ed. D, LPC, CRC

Registration Fee: \$20.00

Financial assistance available as needed

To Register: contact the church office at 608-637-7711, email stmaryparish@mwt.net, or go to the website at www.griefshare.org



Kickapoo Counseling

110 N. Main Street
Westby, WI 54667
608-634-2365

info@kickapoo-counseling.com

If you would like to advertise on this page, please contact 608-637-7711

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